



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

February 13, 2006

News Release

LOUISVILLE MAN INDICTED ON CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CHARGES

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — A Louisville man was charged last week with possessing child pornography as a result of an investigation by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

John Joseph Duane, 47, of 4012 Hillview Ave., Louisville, was indicted by a federal grand jury Feb. 6 in U.S. District Court in the Western District of Kentucky for possessing child pornography.

The indictment charges that on March 15, 2003 and April 12, 2003, Duane received pornographic images over the Internet depicting a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct. The indictment also charges that on Nov. 10, 2005, Duane possessed images of child pornography.

Duane is the latest individual to be caught up in a global ICE child pornography investigation that has targeted an Internet billing company based in Minsk, Belarus, and its affiliated entities in the United States. To date, the probe has resulted in the arrest of more than 1,200 people worldwide.

In January 2004, the Belarus firm was charged with money laundering as well as providing credit card billing services for 50 child pornography websites worldwide and operating child porn websites of its own. Three officers of the company were arrested in Europe and have been extradited to the United States. All three of those officers have pleaded guilty in Newark, N.J., as have four officers of two affiliated companies in Florida and California.

Having dismantled the leadership of the enterprise, ICE agents in domestic offices and 52 ICE Attaché offices worldwide turned their focus to those who purchased child porn subscriptions from these sites in the United States and abroad. A lead arising from that investigation led to Duane's arrest last week.

Duane's arrest is part of Operation Predator, an ongoing ICE enforcement initiative to protect children from pornographers, child prostitution rings, Internet predators, alien smugglers, human traffickers, and other predatory criminals. Since the initiative began in July 2003, ICE agents have arrested more than 6,900 individuals nationwide, including 16 in Kentucky.

ICE encourages the public to report suspected child predators and any suspicious activity through its toll-free hotline at 1-866-DHS-2ICE. This hotline is staffed around the clock by investigators.

Suspected child sexual exploitation or missing children may be reported to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, an Operation Predator partner, at 1-800-843-5678 or <http://www.cybertipline.com>.

If convicted, Duane faces a maximum penalty of 50 years' imprisonment, a \$750,000 fine, and supervised release for a period of any term of years up to life.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Madison T. Sewell. Duane is scheduled to appear for arraignment before a U.S. Magistrate Judge on Feb. 21 in Louisville.

The indictment of a person by a grand jury is an accusation only and that person is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.